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Mineral Wealth of the Rocky Mountains and New Mexico.

At a recent meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, an instructive paper on the mineral resources of the Rocky Mountains was presented by William P. Blake. It is altogether probable that further explorations will show that the gold deposits found in New Mexico extended not only as far north as Pike's Peak in Kansas, but on this slope of the mountains opposite the sources of Fraser river. Very little is yet known of all this region, which affords a vast and most interesting field for scientific exploration. Mr. Blake's paper is confined chiefly to New Mexico:

The gold field of New Mexico has been known and worked since 1828, and is confined to the placer or gold mountains, about twenty miles from Santa Fe, toward Alburquerque. The yield of gold has been chiefly from the washings, and not from veins, and was estimated in 1847 by Wislizenus as varying from thirty to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year, but it soon afterwards so diminished that it was counted by hundreds instead of thousands. These placers are on the subordinate or outline ridges of the eastern ranges of the Rocky Mountains, and are true hill deposits affording coarse gold like that from the high placers of California.—The pay gravel, from twenty to one hundred feet below the surface, is generally very rich. Owing to the scarcity of water, a very large amount of gravel has been untouched. Veins or beds in the rocks, containing gold, outcrop higher up in the ravines; in one place gold occurs in strata of quartzose sandstone, and in great ferruginous beds, rather than in veins.—The sandstone appears to have been charged with auriferous pyrites, by the decomposition of which gold has been liberated.

At other points regular quartz veins bearing gold and pyrites are found, and some of them have been worked at times for over twenty years—the Ortiz and Biggs mines have been worked to a depth of about 135 feet; in a deserted mine in the mountains known as Los Cerillo, worked nearly 200 years ago, the principal shaft is 200 feet deep, cut vertically, and with great precision, through solid rock. The largest lump found at the placers was worth $2,000, and from this they occur all the way to $80 and $50. The gold from New Placer is black and ill-looking on the surface, but is very fine, worth $20 an ounce; the Mexican miners are paid $16 an ounce for it, and their wages by the day are are from 60 to 75 cents The gold mountains and placers are about 300 miles south of Pike's Peak, and there is but little doubt gold will be found over this entire distance. The Rocy Mountain gold, from assays made at the Dahlonega branch mint, Georgia, is nearly one tenth richer than the California gold, and a little richer than the Australian.

Next to gold, but of greater importance to the country, is the existence in the Rocky Mountains chain of beds of coal: both bituminous and anthracite coal in thick beds and of superior quality, occur near Santa Fe and in the vicinity of the gold mines. The presence of anthracite in the Rocky Mountains is of great national importance in many points of view.—One of the chief questions in connection with the proposed railroad to the Pacific has been, whether fuel can be obtained? Here we have a store of inexhaustible fuel at a point nearly midway between the Pacific and the Mississippi. This is one great reason for the construction of a central road to the Rocky Mountains near Santa Fe; coal not having been found, and probably not existing in workable beds, in the lower and porphyritic ranges of western Texas and southern New Mexico. Wood is not abundant except at great elevations, and the coal is much more accessible and abundant; it is valuable not only for railroad purposes, but for domestic, mining, and metallurgical operations. There is reason to believe that the Rocky Mountain chain is rich in silver ores, in the shape of argentiferous galena. Stevenson's mines near Franklin, (El Paso) have long been known, and are very rich. In other localities are very ancient and deserted mines, capable of being worked. Of copper ores there are several localities; the sulphuret, with the blue and green carbonates, occurs in the Placer Mountains, native copper and the red oxide are found near Jemez, in the valley of the Rio Grande, resembling those found in such abundance and richness in Arizona. Magnetic iron ore is abundant in the mountains near the gold mines, and as coal and limestone are plentiful in the vicinity, may at some future time be profitably worked for iron and steel. Specular iron is said also to exist there in veins or beds.

Besides metals and ores, there are many valuable minerals and gems—among others the much prized chalchihuitl of the ancient Mexicans; this is a variety of the turquoise; garnets clearness and beautiful colors are brought in by the Navajo Indians; some are equal in size and value to the garnets from Bohemia. Chrysolites are also found. It will thus be seen that the mineral resources of the Rocky Mountains are extensive, and of a character to render the region in a great measure independent of distant sections of the country. Its rapid settlement and the explorations which must result from the great emigration to the newly discovered placers will not fail to bring to light many new localities of valuable minerals, and thus hasten the organization of a new and powerful State.

Death of Prince Metternich.

It was said that the battle of Austerlitz killed Pitt, earl of Chatham. The news of the destruction in that encounter of his great scheme, by which Austria had been allied with Russia to resist the progress of the first Napoleon, was such a shock that his system, enfeebled as it was by disease, gave way under it, and he survived but a few days. It is remarkable that Prince Metternich, the high priest of European diplomacy for the last half century, the architect of the Austrian empire, the instigator of the marriage of Napoleon with Maria Louise, the father of the treaties of 1815, passed away a week after the battle of Magenta. It will be said, we presume, that as Austerlitz was fatal to Chatham, so was Magenta to Metternich.

Clement Wenceslas Metternich was born at Coblentz, on the 15th of May, 1773, so that when he died he had completed his 86th year. His ancestors had been distinguished in the wars of the Empire against the Turks; his family had given more than one elector to the archbishopries of Mayence and Treves; and his father, the Count Metternich, had obtained some reputation as a diplomatist, and as the associate of Kannitz At the age of fifteen Metternich entered the University of Strasbourg, where he had for his fellow student Benjamin Constant, and from which two years afterwards he removed to Mayence, in order to complete his studies. In 1790 he made his first public appearance as the master of the ceremonies at the coronation of the Emperor Leopold II., and in 1794, after a short visit to England, he was attached to the Austrian embassy at Hague in the following year, marrying the heiress of his father's friend, Kaunitz. Thus far he was serving his apprenticeship in diplomacy. He first came into notice at the congress of Rastadt, where he represented the Westphalian nobility, after which he accompanied Count Stadion to St. Petersburg, was (1801) appointed Minister to the Court of Dresden, then (1803-4) proceeded as ambassador to Berlin, where he took a leading part in the arrangement of that well known coalition which was dissolved by the battle of Austerlitz, and at length, after the peace of Presburg, was elected for the most important diplomatic appointment in the gift of the Emperor—that of Austrian Minister at the Court of Napoleon.

The rise of the young ambassador had been unusually rapid, and the French Emperor greeted him with the remark—"You are very young to represent so powerful a monarchy." "Your Majesty was not older at Austerlitz," replied Metternich, with a slight exaggeration which could not make the compliment less acceptable, and, indeed, young as he was, he exhibited an address and a knowledge before which Napoleon might bluster, but of which he could never get the better. In Metternich, all the arts of society had been cultivated to the highest degree—his conversation brilliant and inexhaustible, his manners most easy and graceful, his manners most easo and graceful, his flattery delicate and insinuating. Without much ardor, with very limited sympathies, with no deep convictions, he had a clear head and a firm hand; he could keep his own secret, and he could worm out the secrets of others; and, making himself the most agreeable man in the world, he plotted in the midst of smiles, manœuvered in a dance, and struck the hardest when he seemed to yield the most. He managed with so much ability that when the war broke out in 1819, and he had to return to the Austrian Court, which was seeking refuge in the fortress of Comoron, he was appointed to the ministry of Foreign Affairs as the successor of Count Stadion. It was during his tenure of office that he struck out the idea of a marriage between Napoleon and an Austrian Archduchess, as a means of purchasing a respite for the Empire. He conducted the negociations with Champagny; Napoleon was divorced from Josephine, and Metterich escorted Marie Josephine to Paris. It was but an expedient; it was a humiliating sacrifice, which could not be a permanent settlement; and in 1813, after the great French catastrophe in Russia, war was again formally declared by Austria against France. In the autumn of that year the grand alliance was signed at Toplitz, and on the field of Leipzig, Metternich was raised to the dignity of a Prince of the Empire. In the subsequent conferences and treaties the newly created Prince took a very prominent part, and he signed the treaty of Paris on behalf of Austria. He afterwards paid a visit to this country, and received the honor of a doctor's hood from the University of Oxford. This is worth mentioning, as we believe it is the only honor which he received from this country. He who received decorations from all the courts of Europe, obtained none from the English court. The only celebrated orders to which he could not boast he belonged, were the orders of the Bath and the Garter. When the congress of Vienna was opened, Prince Metternich, then in his forty-second year, was unanimously chosen to preside over its deliberations, and this presidency in the congress may be regarded as typical of the ascendency which, from this time, he exerted for many years in the affairs of Europe.—When the shock of 1848 overtook Austria, the government fell, in spite of the resistance of Metternich, who maintained his State policy to the last. A deputation of citizens made their complaints to the Archduke John, who calmned them by promising, first of all, the resignation of the Chancellor. Out came the Prince Metternich from the next room where the Ministers had assembled to deliberate, and with all the tenacity of age—the tenacity of a Minister who had directed the affairs of the Empire some forty years, exclaimed, "I will not resign, gentlemen, I will not resign," Archduke John, without replying to the Chancellor, simply repeated his statement, "I have already told you, Prince Metternich resigns." "What, is this the return I get for my fifty years' service?" he said, and the next day he left the city with an escort of cavalry. He came to England, and here remained till the old state of things began to return. Not till 1851 did he venture to appear again at Vienna, but in the autumn of that year he made a sort of Royal progress to his palace in the Rennweg. The old man was never again asked to undertake the cares of office He held sveh a position in society as the Duke of Wellington, in his latter days, held in this country; and his advice was often taken in affairs of State, but really his power was gone, and many among us, perhaps, may be surprised to learn that the renowned statesman has lived until now. Renowned rather than great, clever rather than wise, venerated more for his age than for his power, admired but not lamented—the oldest Minister of the oldest court of Europe has passed away.

THE IRON CROWN OF CHARLEMAGNE.—The celebrated iron crown which Austrian prudence has just locked up in the solid and fortified city of Lombardy is not so much iron as its name indicates; but on the contrary, is of gold, and is of a form which in heraldy is called "a baron's torse"—that is to say, a circle about three fingers wide, encrusted with thick borders of different colors, but in the inside is a real iron crown—a ring which tradition pretends has been formed out of one of the nails which were used in the cross on which Christ was crucified.

The famous crown was in the year 774, placed upon the head of Carlo Magno (Charles the Great) by Pope Adrian the First. In 1452 it was removed to Rome, to crown Frederick the Fourth, and in 1530 to Bolonia, where it encircled the brows of Charles the Fifth. Lastly, in 1805, Napoleon the First placed it on his own head, repeating the exclamation attributed to another monarch twelve centuries before—"God has given it to me—wo be unto him that touches it."

This historical and religious treasure was until the 22d of Aprile last, enclosed within the frame of a thick gilt copper cross, which was exibited on certain days in the Cathedral of Monza, after a special religious ceremony.—Monza is a sort of Milanese Versailles, four leagues from the capital.

It cannot, therefore, be seen without much difficulty, through a thick crystal which encloses it in the interior of that great cross. To see it near, a special permit from the military governor of Milan is necessary.

COAL IN THE UNITED STATES.—The coal districts of Great Britain appear as mear specks when compared to those of America. The coal fields of Great Britain, in figures, amount to 5400 square miles; those of Europe are only 8964 square miles: while those of the United States, in the aggregate, comprise no less than 186,850 square miles; added to which the British Provinces of North America contain 7530 square miles. The following illustrations will convey some idea to the reader of the amount of coal there exists in Europe and America. We need not fear any scarcity for thousand of years. Averaging the total thickness of the workable coal in Great Britain at thirty five feht, we have a total of workable coal equal to 190,000,000, 000 tons. In the same way, estimating the total area of the productive coal fields of North America as 200,000 square miles(that is, inclusive of the British provinces,)and averaging the thickness of good workable coal at 20 feet, we gain a result of 4,000,000,000,000 tons. Or, to make the results more appreciable' if we take the amount of workable coal in Belgium as 1, then that in the British Islands is rather more than 5, that in all Europe 8¾, and that in all the coal fields or North America is 211. This method of ratio is more intelligible than that of relative superficial magnitudes, and we at once perceive that the United States possess more than twentytwo times the amount of coal in the mines of Great Britain.

A WINDFALL TO THE TREASURY.—The New-York Times says the Federal Treasury had a windfall, on Wednesday, of the value of $130. 000, by the return of this sum from the celebrated Gardner fund. It will be remembered that a Dr. Gardner, some years after the late war with Mexico, made a fictitious claim for about $200, 000, on the Mexican Indemnity fund, which claim, bolstered by forged and fraudulent vouchers, was finally allowed, and the money paid over by the government.

Gardner was subsequently tried and convicted at Washington for the fraud and committed suicide in prison, leaving $130,000 of the money on deposit with the New York Life and Trust Company. The public abministration of his city took our letters of administration upon the estate, but the Government intorvened and enjoined the deposit. After years of litigation, the principle of this sum has been awarded to the Government, and the accumulation of interest, about $40,000 to the estate. The former has been paid over to the Sub-Treasury.

"That's a fine strain," said an old gehtleman to another alluding to the tones of a singer at a concert the other evening. "Yes," said a countryman who sat near, "but if he strains much more he'll bust."

☞ "Will you have it rare or well done?" said an Englishman to an Irishman, a few days ago, as he was cutting a piece of roast beef. "I love it well done iver since I am in this country," replied Pat, "for it was rare enough we used to ate it in Ireland."

Mr. E—, barister for for abcence of mind was once witnessing the reprctentation of Macbeth; and on the witche's replying to the Thane's inquiry, that they "doing a deed without a name" catching the sound of the words he started up, exclaiming to the astonishment of audience—"a deed without a name! Why it's void; it's not worth a sixpence."

Rembrandt Peale and Thos. Sully, the eminent Philadelphia artists, are engaged painting each other's portrait.

Twenty nine years ago Chicago polled but 32 votes, and the majority of these were cast by Freuch Canadians and half breeds.